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South Dakota Labor Bulletin

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"The unemployed"--different meanings to different people

People sometimes get frustrated when they hear the latest unemployment rate, believing that it does not reflect their perception of the number of people without jobs. Differing views on what exactly "unemployed" means and differing interests in measuring joblessness cause at least part of the frustration.

The "official" unemployment rates released by the U.S. or S.D. Departments of Labor which you hear on your favorite radio or TV station, see charted or graphed in the local newspaper, or read in this publication measure the unemployed as a group which meets a strict definition of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In "official" labor force estimates, the unemployed are those who do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work.

Others would define the unemployed as people who are receiving unemployment insurance benefits. The main reason this measure would not work well as an "official" estimate is that it would not be very encompassing. Many types of workers are either not covered by unemployment insurance (e.g. the self-employed, unpaid family workers, elected government officials) or are covered but are not eligible to receive benefits (those who have exhausted benefits, those who have not yet worked long enough to earn benefit rights, those who voluntarily quit their job, those who are fired for misconduct on the job). In some cases, even those who are eligible never file for benefits.

Some believe the unemployed should be defined as people without jobs. The problem with use of this definition is that it would include various groups who simply do not want a job. Many people choose not to work while going to school, keeping house and/or raising children, because they are ill, disabled or retired. This group made up about 91 percent of those who are not in the labor force nationally in 1991. These people would not be a very relevant component of estimates of the unemployed, since they are not working by choice and would not take a job even if one were offered to them.

Those without jobs would also include those who do want a job but do not fit the "official" definition of unemployed because they are not actively seeking work. Some classify themselves as wanting a job but not seeking work because they are attending school, have ill health, or because of home responsibilities. Others want a job but are not activively seeking work because they believe they could not get a job (called discouraged workers). Nationally, people who want a job but are not actively seeking work make up the remaining approximately nine percent of those who are not in the labor force.

Data available on discouraged workers

Although discouraged workers are not included in the "official" estimates of the unemployed, there is data available on discouraged workers. Nationally in 1991, discouraged workers accounted for 1.6 percent of those who were not in the U.S. labor force.

Additional data details whether discouraged workers are not seeking work because of job market factors or because of personal factors. Those categorized as not seeking work due to job market factors includes such people as those who looked for work in the past without success and

those who simply believe that no jobs are available. Location is often an issue for people believing they cannot get work--if jobs which are available are too far for them to commute to or if they have no form of transportation to commute to a job. The majority of discouraged workers (about 68 percent) in 1991 thought they could not get a job because of job market factors.

Some examples of discouraged workers who believe they cannot get jobs due to personal factors would be those who believe they lack the training or education needed for jobs, those who perceive that employers will see them as too young or too old for the job, or those who believe that other personal handicaps will preclude them from being hired.

To see the impact that the addition of these "discouraged workers" into the "official" estimate of the unemployed, let's look at 1991 U.S. labor force figures. If the number of discouraged workers had been included in the estimate of the unemployed and the labor force, the jobless rate would have been 8.0 percent, compared to the "official" unemployment rate of 6.3 percent.The omission of discouraged workers from "official" unemployment estimates is often the biggest concern of those who question the "official" count of unemployed. Their concern is certainly valid, when you consider that discouraged workers' total hopelessness in finding a job is what precludes them from being included in official unemployment figures.

However, it would be difficult to include discouraged workers in estimates of the unemployed because it is difficult to determine whether or not a person who is not looking for work would actually take a job if one were available. Without showing some signs of job seeking (which can include anything from registering at a public or private employment office or meeting with prospective employers to checking with friends and relatives or writing letters of application in order to meet the BLS definition of job seeking), how would a person accurately determine whether or not a person would actually take a job?

Additional data can be helpful

While the "official" unemployment level may not meet the needs of everyone, there is additional information available on the unemployed on an annual average basis which may provide deeper insight into joblessness as a measure of economic health. For example, there's data available on the number of unemployed by reason of unemployment, using the following categories: job losers (those who have lost their jobs involuntarily, including those who are on layoff); job leavers (those who left their jobs voluntarily; re-entrants (those who have come back into the labor force after being out temporarily and are unemployed until they find a job); and new entrants (those who are coming into the labor force for the first time and are unemployed until they find a job).

There's also data on the number of people by the duration of their unemployment. This can be a helpful measure of the economic severity of unemployment. Unemployment data is also available by industry, occupational groups, sex and race.

There's also data available on the number who have exhausted unemployment insurance benefits. This is helpful in that it shows some measure of how many people are out of work without financial assistance for their unemployment situation while they seek other employment.

While it does not actually relate to unemployment, another type of available labor force information that can be helpful as an indicator of the economy is data on those working only part-time when they want full-time jobs. In 1990, there were approximately 5,000 South Dakotans who usually work full time working part-time for economic reasons (e.g. slack work, material shortages, repairs to plant or equipment, orinability to find full-time work).

If you are interested in receiving any of the information mentioned in this article, please contact the Labor Market Information Center at the address or phone number on the back of this publication.

Highlights of South Dakota's labor market in April

Labor Force Data

The seasonally adjusted South Dakota labor force in April 1992 was 358,400, with 346,800 employed and 11,500 unemployed. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.2 percent, a decrease from the March rate of 3.5 percent.

A drop in the rate at which South Dakotan's claimed unemployment insurance benefits, coupled with a drop in the number of people new to the labor force or re-entering the labor force, helped push the unemployment rate down in April.

Nonfarm Employment Changes

This information is not seasonally adjusted

A review of month-to-month changes in nonfarm wage and salaried employment showed an overall increase of 3,800 jobs (or 1.3 percent) from March to April. This is a reflection, for the most part, of seasonal employment increases in construction, wholesale/retail trade, and services.

Signs with messages like "One lane traffic ahead" and "Road construction next 12 miles" are back, and so are seasonal employment increases in the construction industry. This industry reported an over-the-month employment surge with the addition of 1,200 jobs and performed as seasonally expected according to historical trends.

Second only to the construction industry in over-the-month employment growth, the retail trade industry was up 1,000. One reason for this increase was the reopening of businesses such as dairy bars and drive-in restaurants, which came with the springtime weather.

Although tourism-related employment increases began in the services industry, over-the-month job growth in this industry was slightly less than normal March to April increases. The divisions of hotels/motels and amusements are those divisions in the services industry which began additional hiring for the tourism season.

After remaining at the same job level the past four months, the wholesale trade industry posted job growth of 200 people. This increase is due to the hiring of extra personnel to accommodate seasonal demand for grain, fertilizers, and fuel.

Local government captured the lion's share of the 600 total government job gain over the month, with the addition of 500 jobs.

Compared to a year ago . . .

Over the year, nonfarm wage and salaried employment in South Dakota increased 6,500 jobs (or 2.2 percent). Nationally nonfarm employment decreased by 0.9 percent.

The largest reason for South Dakota's divergence from the national trend over the year can be summed up in one word--manufacturing. While the nation's manufacturing industry declined, it was South Dakota's fastest growing industry. Much of this industry's growth was concentrated in the industrial and commercial machinery and computer equipment sector, with much of the increase resulting from one firm's hiring.

The services industry noted job growth of 1,500 jobs from year-ago employment levels. As has been the case for some time, the majority of these new service industry jobs were found in the medical and health services and hotels, motels, and amusements divisions.

The divisions within the retail trade industry that added jobs from year-ago employment levels were: eating and drinking establishments; general merchandise/apparel; and food stores.

Government, particularly local government, continued to enjoy growth. On the whole, government employment was up 700 jobs, or 1.9 percent, for the year.

Labor Force

	April 1992[1]				April 1991			
	Seasonally Adjusted							
	Labor Force[2]	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force[2]	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
United States	**126,830,000**	**117,675,000**	**9,155,000**	**7.2**	**125,644,000**	**117,388,000**	**8,256,000**	**6.6**
South Dakota	**358,400**	**346,800**	**11,500**	**3.2**	**359,000**	**347,000**	**12,000**	**3.3**
	Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Sioux Falls MSA	78,225	76,510	1,715	2.2	76,948	75,110	1,838	2.4
Rapid City MSA	40,398	38,911	1,487	3.7	39,787	38,285	1,502	3.8
Aurora	1,370	1,332	38	2.8	1,397	1,386	11	.8
Beadle	8,148	7,919	229	2.8	8,660	8,281	379	4.4
Bennett	1,444	1,419	25	1.7	1,516	1,480	36	2.4
Bon Homme	3,588	3,505	83	2.3	3,497	3,417	80	2.3
Brookings	14,767	14,194	573	3.9	15,051	14,462	589	3.9
Brown	19,338	18,686	652	3.4	19,629	18,917	712	3.6
Brule	2,476	2,421	55	2.2	2,626	2,578	48	1.8
Buffalo	429	404	25	5.8	422	395	27	6.4
Butte	3,305	3,140	165	5.0	3,395	3,272	123	3.6
Campbell	1,051	1,023	28	2.7	1,072	1,020	52	4.9
Charles Mix	3,762	3,663	99	2.6	3,720	3,569	151	4.1
Clark	1,747	1,692	55	3.1	1,790	1,746	44	2.5
Clay	7,206	6,914	292	4.1	7,179	6,933	246	3.4
Codington	12,018	11,646	372	3.1	12,115	11,747	368	3.0
Corson	1,254	1,139	115	9.2	1,385	1,232	153	11.0
Custer	3,328	3,210	118	3.5	3,420	3,272	148	4.3
Davison	8,762	8,545	217	2.5	9,070	8,896	174	1.9
Day	3,020	2,915	105	3.5	3,227	3,046	181	5.6
Deuel	2,114	2,043	71	3.4	2,153	2,084	69	3.2
Dewey	1,901	1,791	110	5.8	1,955	1,829	126	6.4
Douglas	1,559	1,546	13	.8	1,605	1,577	28	1.7
Edmunds	1,815	1,790	25	1.4	1,951	1,887	64	3.3
Fall River	3,074	2,961	113	3.7	3,148	2,991	157	5.0
Faulk	1,083	1,070	13	1.2	1,127	1,104	23	2.0
Grant	3,979	3,787	192	4.8	4,099	3,937	162	4.0
Gregory	2,232	2,199	33	1.5	2,302	2,250	52	2.3
Haakon	1,064	1,014	50	4.7	1,122	1,104	18	1.6
Hamlin	2,383	2,289	94	3.9	2,372	2,306	66	2.8
Hand	1,842	1,814	28	1.5	1,872	1,844	28	1.5
Hanson	1,391	1,339	52	3.7	1,403	1,378	25	1.8
Harding	662	642	20	3.0	713	702	11	1.5
Hughes	8,375	8,256	119	1.4	8,179	8,047	132	1.6

Labor Force

	April 1992[1]				April 1991			
	Labor Force[2]	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force[2]	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Hutchinson	4,325	4,154	171	4.0	4,065	4,008	57	1.4
Hyde	795	786	9	1.1	836	820	16	1.9
Jackson	1,551	1,526	25	1.6	1,602	1,552	50	3.1
Jerauld	1,095	1,081	14	1.3	1,161	1,129	32	2.8
Jones	580	563	17	2.9	608	578	30	4.9
Kingsbury	2,723	2,571	152	5.6	2,653	2,573	80	3.0
Lake	4,917	4,711	206	4.2	5,146	4,920	226	4.4
Lawrence	12,774	12,237	537	4.2	12,738	12,167	571	4.5
Lincoln	7,389	7,188	201	2.7	7,318	7,090	228	3.1
Lyman	1,368	1,324	44	3.2	1,389	1,316	73	5.3
McCook	2,737	2,640	97	3.5	2,778	2,723	55	2.0
McPherson	1,391	1,364	27	1.9	1,431	1,403	28	2.0
Marshall	2,276	2,199	77	3.4	2,254	2,131	123	5.5
Meade	10,527	10,139	388	3.7	10,395	10,052	343	3.3
Mellette	821	801	20	2.4	835	794	41	4.9
Miner	1,346	1,194	152	11.3	1,405	1,384	21	1.5
Minnehaha	78,225	76,510	1,715	2.2	76,948	75,110	1,838	2.4
Moody	3,615	3,518	97	2.7	3,424	3,321	103	3.0
Pennington	40,398	38,911	1,487	3.7	39,787	38,285	1,502	3.8
Perkins	2,111	2,086	25	1.2	2,230	2,175	55	2.5
Potter	1,352	1,303	49	3.6	1,377	1,336	41	3.0
Roberts	4,392	4,205	187	4.3	4,582	4,370	212	4.6
Sanborn	1,037	984	53	5.1	1,067	1,028	39	3.7
Shannon	2,380	2,220	160	6.7	2,276	2,127	149	6.5
Spink	3,295	3,240	55	1.7	3,414	3,337	77	2.3
Stanley	1,519	1,492	27	1.8	1,425	1,370	55	3.9
Sully	734	710	24	3.3	753	737	16	2.1
Todd	2,583	2,439	144	5.6	2,577	2,417	160	6.2
Tripp	3,134	3,051	83	2.6	3,183	3,099	84	2.6
Turner	3,927	3,811	116	3.0	4,036	3,945	91	2.3
Union	7,434	7,217	217	2.9	6,712	6,447	265	3.9
Walworth	2,586	2,550	36	1.4	2,816	2,720	96	3.4
Yankton	10,485	10,308	177	1.7	10,669	10,502	167	1.6
Ziebach	1,263	1,235	28	2.2	1,175	1,136	39	3.3
SOUTH DAKOTA	357,600	346,600	11,000	3.1	358,200	346,800	11,400	3.2

[1] Preliminary data subject to revision.
[2] Labor force estimates include employed and unemployed civilians 16 years old and older by place of residence.
Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

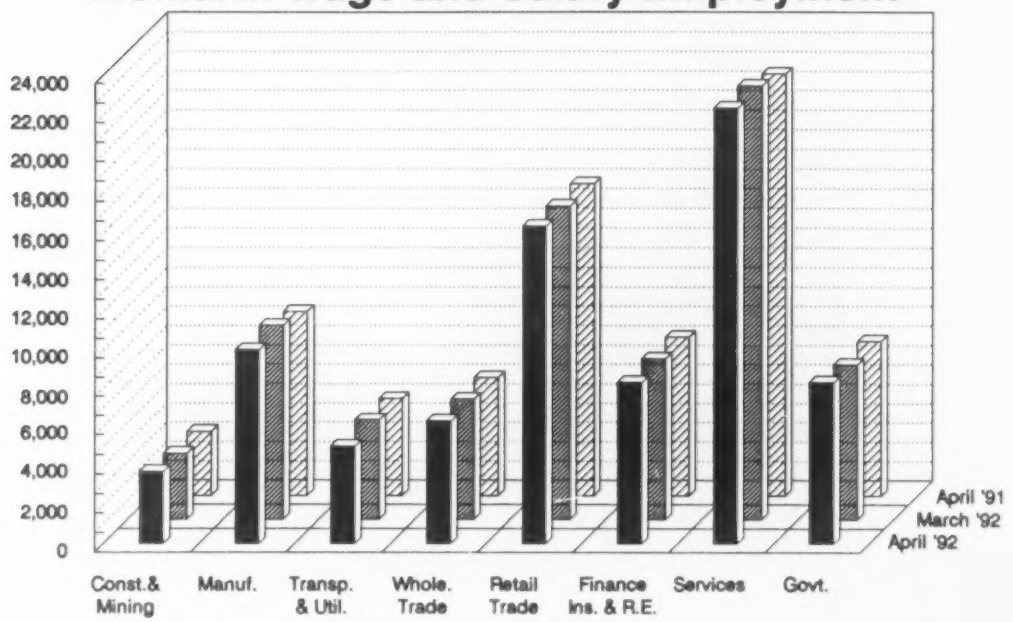
South Dakota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment

	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
TOTAL	**299,500**	**295,700**	**293,000**	**1.3**	**2.2**
GOODS PRODUCING	50,100	48,800	47,900	2.7	4.6
Mining	2,700	2,600	2,500	3.8	8.0
Construction	11,200	10,000	11,000	12.0	1.8
Manufacturing	36,200	36,200	34,400	.0	5.2
Durable Goods	21,100	21,000	19,900	.5	6.0
Nondurable Goods	15,100	15,200	14,500	-.7	4.1
Food & Kindred Products	7,900	8,000	7,600	-1.3	3.9
Printing & Publishing	3,300	3,400	3,200	-2.9	3.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	249,400	246,900	245,100	1.0	1.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	13,900	13,800	13,500	.7	3.0
Transportation	8,500	8,600	8,200	-1.2	3.7
Communication	3,000	2,900	3,000	3.4	.0
Electric/Gas/Sanitary Services	2,300	2,300	2,300	.0	.0
Wholesale Trade	19,400	19,200	19,100	1.0	1.6
Durable Goods	8,700	8,600	8,700	1.2	.0
Nondurable Goods	10,700	10,600	10,400	.9	2.9
Retail Trade	59,200	58,200	58,300	1.7	1.5
Eating and Drinking Establishments	21,400	20,700	20,900	3.4	2.4
General Merchandise/Apparel	11,000	10,900	10,900	.9	.9
Food Stores	8,900	8,700	8,700	2.3	2.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	16,600	16,600	16,500	.0	.6
Finance	10,800	10,900	10,700	-.9	.9
Depository Institutions	5,900	5,900	5,600	.0	5.4
Nondepository Institutions	4,200	4,300	4,500	-2.3	-6.7
Insurance Carriers, Agents & Brokers	3,800	3,800	3,900	.0	-2.6
Services	74,600	74,000	73,100	.8	2.1
Hotels/Motels & Amusements	9,900	9,600	9,100	3.1	8.8
Personal and Business	7,900	7,800	8,600	1.3	-8.1
Medical and Health Services	29,000	29,000	28,200	.0	2.8
Hospitals	13,500	13,500	13,000	.0	3.8
Health Services, other than Hospitals[1]	15,500	15,500	15,200	.0	2.0
Educational Services	5,400	5,500	5,100	-1.8	5.9
Social Services	5,900	5,900	5,700	.0	3.5
Membership Organizations	9,000	9,100	8,900	-1.1	1.1
Government	65,700	65,100	64,600	.9	1.7
Federal	11,500	11,400	11,200	.9	2.7
State	17,500	17,500	17,400	.0	.6
State Education	8,700	8,700	8,700	.0	.0
Local	36,700	36,200	36,000	1.4	1.9
Local Education	21,500	21,300	21,200	.9	1.4

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[1]Not developed in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sioux Falls MSA
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

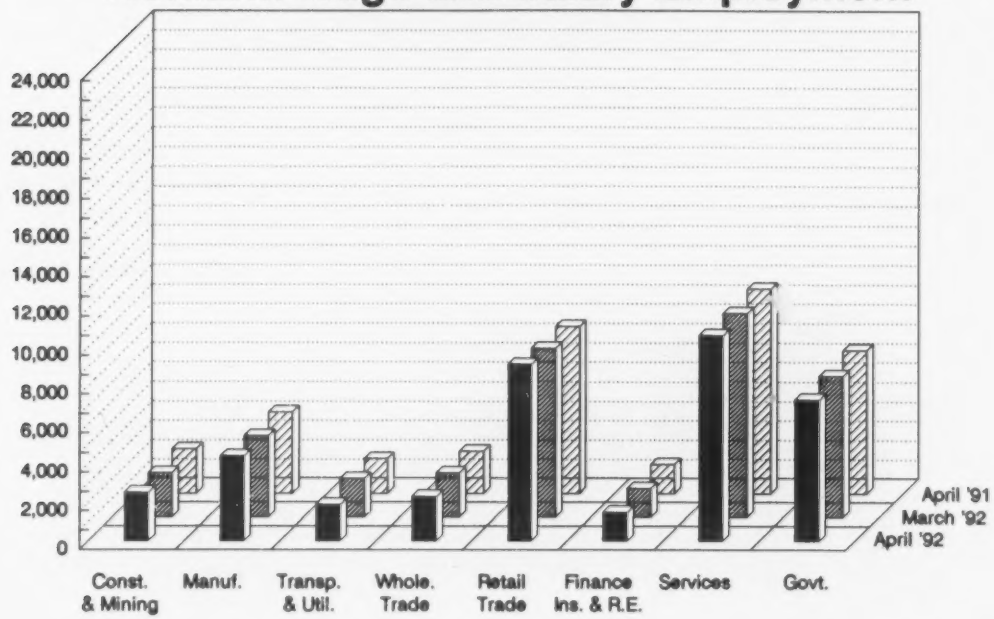


	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
TOTAL	**80,200**	**79,300**	**77,700**	**1.1**	**3.2**
GOODS PRODUCING	13,700	13,400	12,800	2.2	7.0
*Construction & Mining	3,700	3,400	3,300	8.8	12.1
Manufacturing	10,000	10,000	9,500	.0	5.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	66,500	65,900	64,900	.9	2.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	5,000	5,100	5,000	-2.0	.0
Wholesale Trade	6,300	6,200	6,100	1.6	3.3
Retail Trade	16,300	16,100	16,000	1.2	1.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8,300	8,300	8,200	.0	1.2
Services	22,300	22,200	21,600	.5	3.2
Government	8,300	8,000	8,000	3.8	3.8

*Mining employment less than 100.

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Rapid City MSA
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment



	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
TOTAL	**39,600**	**38,800**	**38,500**	**2.1**	**2.9**
GOODS PRODUCING	6,900	6,500	6,500	6.2	6.2
*Construction & Mining	2,500	2,300	2,300	8.7	8.7
Manufacturing	4,400	4,200	4,200	4.8	4.8
SERVICE PRODUCING	32,700	32,300	32,000	1.2	2.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	1,900	2,000	1,800	-5.0	5.6
Wholesale Trade	2,300	2,300	2,200	.0	4.5
Retail Trade	9,100	8,700	8,600	4.6	5.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,500	1,500	1,500	.0	.0
Services	10,600	10,500	10,500	1.0	1.0
Government	7,300	7,300	7,400	.0	-1.4

*Mining employment less than 300.

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hours and Earnings of Production Workers

	Number of Production Workers			Average Weekly Hours		
	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991
South Dakota						
Total Private	193,500	189,900	189,500	32.3	32.5	32.3
Mining	2,200	2,200	2,100	44.2	44.2	41.5
Construction	8,900	7,700	8,400	40.2	36.8	35.7
Manufacturing	26,300	26,200	25,400	40.9	41.2	40.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	11,700	11,600	11,200	37.7	38.0	38.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	69,200	67,800	68,000	28.9	28.8	29.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	12,300	12,400	12,400	36.9	37.3	35.3
Services	62,900	62,000	62,000	29.1	30.0	29.7
Sioux Falls MSA						
Manufacturing	7,100	7,100	6,700	41.0	40.5	39.4
Rapid City MSA						
Manufacturing	3,300	3,100	3,200	42.6	42.1	41.6

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991
South Dakota						
Total Private	$270.35	$271.38	$265.18	$8.37	$8.35	$8.21
Mining	569.74	571.51	522.49	12.89	12.93	12.59
Construction	420.09	396.34	369.14	10.45	10.77	10.34
Manufacturing	359.92	361.74	358.67	8.80	8.78	8.90
Transportation & Public Utilities	434.30	431.30	430.78	11.52	11.35	11.16
Wholesale & Retail Trade	204.32	203.90	201.39	7.07	7.08	6.85
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	342.80	349.50	303.23	9.29	9.37	8.59
Services	229.89	236.10	236.41	7.90	7.87	7.96
Sioux Falls MSA						
Manufacturing	$372.69	$370.17	$361.30	$9.09	$9.14	$9.17
Rapid City MSA						
Manufacturing	$381.27	$387.74	$395.62	$8.95	$9.21	$9.51

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

■ In 1939, just one in eight nonfarm jobs was in the services industry. Today, one in every four nonfarm jobs is in the services industry.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed[1]

	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991
Total	2,835	3,544	2,355
Male	1,655	2,508	1,560
Female	1,180	1,036	795
White	2,557	3,257	2,128
Nonwhite	278	287	227
Under 45	1,945	2,492	1,714
Over 45	890	1,052	641
By Industry[2]			
Mining	26	62	80
Construction	493	1,044	498
Manufacturing	604	640	686
Transportation & Public Utilities	129	172	113
Trade	618	797	405
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	72	78	61
Services	787	593	393
Government	106	158	119
By Occupation[2]			
Professional & Managerial	376	409	284
Clerical and Sales	466	476	333
Services	351	519	271
Processing	107	105	98
Machine Trade	166	181	135
Benchwork	462	217	255
Structural Work	575	1,111	667
Other	332	526	312
By Duration of Current Unemployment			
1-2 Weeks	629	394	294
3-4 Weeks	297	403	264
5-14 Weeks	1,081	1,804	1,127
15 Weeks & Over	828	943	670

[1] The insured unemployed are those people who had worked for employers covered by South Dakota's Unemployment Insurance laws and who filed claims for unemployment insurance compensation during the week including the 12th of the month.

[2] Refers to industry and occupation involvement prior to unemployment.

Selected Labor Department Activities

	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
Unemployment Insurance					
A. Initial Claims	1,828	1,600	1,530	14.3	19.5
B. Weeks Compensated	13,127	14,687	10,698	-10.6	22.7
C. Amount of Benefit Payments	$1,257,295	$1,508,934	$999,597	-16.7	25.8
D. Unemployment Trust Fund Balance	$46,912,567	$44,830,916	$46,721,845	4.6	0.4
Job Service					
E. Applicants Available (new and renewal)	6,845	5,309	4,832	28.9	41.7
F. Nonfarm Placements	3,964	3,319	3,339	19.4	18.7
G. Nonfarm Job Openings	10,492	8,680	9,320	20.9	12.6

Employers are at the heart of labor market information

Much of the information provided by the Labor Market Information Center depends on the cooperation of South Dakota's employers. One of the best examples of what can be accomplished with that cooperation is the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey--an establishment survey of a sample of South Dakota employers.

The nonfarm employment and earnings information provided on pages 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this and every issue of the *South Dakota Labor Bulletin* is based on the CES survey, not to mention the important annual average data that can be derived from the survey.

Because the CES is a monthly survey, it provides the most current data available on employment and earnings activity in South Dakota's industries. This information is useful in assessing the economic health of the state and provides businesses with information to help guide in plant location, sales and purchase decisions.

Participating employers complete a survey once each month using a "shuttle" form. The form asks for the total number of wage and salaried employees, the number of production workers, the total payroll for production workers, and the total number of hours worked by production workers.

We extend a big THANK YOU to employers who participate in the CES survey and to the dedicated individuals at those businesses (payroll clerks, bookkeepers, personnel directors, managers and owners) who fill out the survey form each month. If you are not already a survey participant and would be willing to be in our CES sample, please contact us toll free at 1-800-592-1881. We'd love to hear from you!

Technical Notes and Definitions

Pages 6, 7 and 8 - Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates include almost all nonfarm wage earners (full and part-time) but exclude the self-employed. They are derived from a monthly sample survey of South Dakota non-agricultural establishments and include workers on the payroll for the week including the 12th of the month. These tables compare the current month's employment totals of the major industry groups to the totals of the previous month and year.

Page 9 - Average hours and earnings data are derived from reports of payrolls and hours for production and related workers in manufacturing, construction workers in construction, and non-supervisory employees in private service-producing industries. The data cover full and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for the payroll period that includes the 12th of the month. The earnings figures are "gross" figures. They may be higher than employer wage rates, since they reflect premium pay for shift differentials and overtime work. The hours figures relate to the hours for which pay was received; this is different from scheduled or standard work hours.

Page 10 - The data in the table at the bottom of page 10 are taken from the records of the state unemployment insurance program and the state Job Service system. The terms are defined as follows:

A. Initial Claims - the total number of first claims for unemployment compensation.

B. Weeks Compensated - the total number of weeks for which claimants received compensation.

C. Amount of Benefit Payments - the total amount of money paid to claimants.

D. Unemployment Trust Fund Balance - the fund to which all required Unemployment Insurance taxes are paid and from which all benefits to claimants are paid.

E. Applicants Available (new and renewals) - the total number of different individuals who registered or renewed their registrations for work at Job Service offices in the state.

F. Nonag Placements - a count of the number of times during the month that Job Service applicants were hired by nonfarm employers.

G. Nonag Job Openings - a count of new job openings received during the month by South Dakota Job Service offices from nonfarm employers.

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South Dakota Labor Bulletin

Selected National Economic Indicators

	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
Consumer Price Index[1]	139.5	139.3	135.2	0.1	3.2
Industrial Production Index[2]	108.2	107.6	105.5	0.6	2.6
Retail Trade Sales[3]	$158,013	$156,609	$151,395	0.9	4.4
Privately Owned Housing Starts[4]	1,115	1,344	978	-17.0	14.0
Bank Prime Loan Rate[5]	6.50	6.50	9.00	0.0	-27.8

[1]U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 1982-84 = 100.

[2]Federal Reserve Board. Includes manufacturing, mining and utilities. 1987 = 100. Seasonally adjusted.

[3]Bureau of the Census. Adjusted for seasonal, holiday and trading day differences. In millions of dollars.

[4]Bureau of the Census. Includes new, privately owned housing units started. Seasonally adjusted annual rates. In thousands of units.

[5]Federal Reserve Board. Annual rates.

■ The majority (55 percent) of the nation's unemployed in 1991 were unemployed because they lost their jobs.

■ About 40 percent of those who were not in the nation's labor force because they did not want a job in 1991 gave "keeping house" as a reason for not wanting a job.

■ The largest portion, 40 percent, of the nation's unemployed in 1991 were unemployed less than five weeks.